

Tony, here are some of my thoughts on this upcoming bill. First to let you know where I coming from a little information on my experience biking. I have been biking since 1992 and riding rail trails since 1995. I ride trails in CT, RI, MA and NY. I have had some close calls when it comes to interaction with vehicles. I have seen some close calls with other bikers at intersections. Intersections are the most dangerous sections to ride through. I have personally almost got taken out by a speeding pickup truck on the Farmington Canal Trail by Sleeping Giant State Park at an intersection. At another trail, I saw a family of 4 stopped at an intersecting secondary road almost get hit by a speeding car that did not stop as they were about to cross the road.

I think 2way bike lanes are a good thing giving riders a designated biking lane. The problem with MOST CT roads is that they do not have a wide enough shoulder to share the road with cars. I think where trails cross main roads there should be stop lights. Since I have been riding, I have seen more lights being installed. This practice should be continued. On secondary road crossings a painted crosswalk should be installed with signage to stop when bikes are approaching the crosswalk. It should be done on those secondary roads that are busy based on traffic count.

My main reason for riding Rail trails is because, I do not like to ride where there are cars. Unfortunately, many trails have intersecting roads and these areas need to be made as safe as possible.

The other point I will make is that with more and more people using these Multi use trails, criminal activity seems to be picking up. People are getting robbed and some women getting accosted. My point is that in Mass, police patrol the trails on bikes. I have seen them on Colonial Rail Trail which is the section of the Farmington Rail Trail that enters MASS toward Westfield.

Best regards,
Al Horila
Member of Farmington Valley Trails Council